

What is claimed is:

1 1. A method of improving installation of software packages, comprising steps of:
2 defining an object model representing a plurality of components of a software installation
3 package, wherein each component comprises a plurality of objects;
4 instantiating at least one version of each of the objects, wherein a plurality of versions of
5 selected ones of the objects may be instantiated to reflect differing access rights which are
6 appropriate for potential requesters of the package; and
7 storing the instantiated objects in a directory, wherein the versions of the objects are
8 associated with the differing access rights.

1 2. The method according to Claim 1, further comprising the step of populating the
2 instantiated objects with attributes and methods to describe a particular software installation
3 package.
1 3. The method according to Claim 1, further comprising steps of:
2 receiving a request from a particular requester for a selected software installation package;
3 determining the access rights which are appropriate for the particular requester; and
4 retrieving the selected software installation package from the directory, wherein the
5 retrieved package is dynamically assembled from the stored objects based upon the determined
6 access rights.

1 4. The method according to Claim 3, further comprising steps of:
2 authenticating the particular requester, in response to receiving the request; and
3 determining the access rights and retrieving the selected software installation package only
4 if the authentication succeeds..

1 5. The method according to Claim 3, further comprising the step of installing the retrieved
2 software installation package.

1 6. The method according to Claim 1, wherein the instantiated objects are JavaBeans.

1 7. The method according to Claim 1, wherein the directory is a Lightweight Directory
2 Access Protocol (“LDAP”) directory.

1 8. A system for improving installation of software packages, comprising:
2 means for defining an object model representing a plurality of components of a software
3 installation package, wherein each component comprises a plurality of objects;
4 means for instantiating at least one version of each of the objects, wherein a plurality of
5 versions of selected ones of the objects may be instantiated to reflect differing access rights which
6 are appropriate for potential requesters of the package; and
7 means for storing the instantiated objects in a directory, wherein the versions of the
8 objects are associated with the differing access rights.

1 9. The system according to Claim 8, further comprising:
2 means for receiving a request from a particular requester for a selected software
3 installation package;
4 means for the determining access rights which are appropriate for the particular requester;
5 and
6 means for retrieving the selected software installation package from the directory, wherein
7 the retrieved package is dynamically assembled from the stored objects based upon the determined
8 access rights.

1 10. A computer program product for improving installation of software packages, the
2 computer program product embodied on one or more computer-readable media and comprising:
3 computer-readable program code means for defining an object model representing a
4 plurality of components of a software installation package, wherein each component comprises a
5 plurality of objects;
6 computer-readable program code means for instantiating at least one version of each of
7 the objects, wherein a plurality of versions of selected ones of the objects may be instantiated to
8 reflect differing access rights which are appropriate for potential requesters of the package; and
9 computer-readable program code means for storing the instantiated objects in a directory,
10 wherein the versions of the objects are associated with the differing access rights.

1 11. The computer program product according to Claim 10, further comprising:
2 computer-readable program code means for receiving a request from a particular requester

3 for a selected software installation package;

4 computer-readable program code means for the determining access rights which are

5 appropriate for the particular requester; and

6 computer-readable program code means for retrieving the selected software installation

7 package from the directory, wherein the retrieved package is dynamically assembled from the

8 stored objects based upon the determined access rights.